

## A Note on Birds seen at Maxwell's Hill, Perak, April 1950 and February 1951<sup>1</sup>

By E. H. BROMLEY, B.Sc.

A SHORT visit was made to the hill station at Maxwell's Hill, Perak<sup>2</sup> from 28 April (noon) to 30 (5 p.m.), 1950, after which the following brief notes were compiled on the birds observed. A second visit from 3 February (evening) to 7 February, 1951 provided an opportunity for checking them. In the great majority of species the 1950 observations were confirmed: in a few cases slight revision or additions have been made as a result of the second visit; the latter are indicated by the date, but otherwise it may be assumed that the status in 1951 agrees with that found in 1950. Breeding details, relative numbers of immature birds, etc. refer only to 1950, unless otherwise stated.

The notes are far from comprehensive, but they are submitted to confirm or supplement the distribution notes given in the Annotated Checklist (Gibson-Hill, 1949). The arrangement, numbering and nomenclature used in the Checklist are followed here.

The approximate number of birds of each species observed in 1950 is shown by figures in italics, though these can only be a rough guide to status. Observations on breeding were disappointingly few, and consist almost entirely of records of immature or fledgling birds seen being attended or fed by parents. From the little evidence available it would seem that the peak of the breeding season was already past, at the end of April 1950, at least for first broods. Only one brooded nest, with four white eggs,

<sup>1</sup> Submitted November 1950, revised October 1951.

<sup>2</sup> Maxwell's Hill and Gunong Hijau, Lat. 4° 50' N., Long. 100° 45' E.: see map on page . Maxwell's Hill is situated on the mountain range known as the Larut Hills near Taiping, Perak. The "Tea Gardens", alt. 2,152 feet, are on the route up to the hill station. At Maxwell's Hill itself there are a number of bungalows at an elevation of between 3,400 and 3,650 feet. "The Cottage" (now converted into a radio station) and "The Box" (the official bungalow of the British Adviser, Perak) are on two peaks at heights of 4,530 and 4,076 feet respectively. The average rainfall at the Cottage is 253 inches, and at the hill station proper 206 inches. The jungle is dense evergreen, very thick and matted, with much bracken-like fern near the ridges and on the peaks especially on exposed banks or over-grown landslides. There are fairly extensive flower and vegetable gardens in the neighbourhood of the bungalows, and some clear, grassy spaces. Gunong Hijau, the highest peak in this neighbourhood, reaches a height of 4,750 feet.



was found on a small bank: in this case the sitting bird left so quickly that it was not possible to recognise the species, but it was clearly one of the Babbler. In February 1951 one nest in course of construction was found (see No. 397). It should be added that no special efforts were made to look for nests.

The mixed bird associations, so characteristic of hill jungles, were not much in evidence. Except for a fairly large flock seen on the path to the Cottage on 5 February, and possibly the same one not far from the same place on 6 February, 1951, those that I did see were usually composed of very few species, with relatively few individuals of each. A high proportion of the birds in them in 1950 were immature, and in many cases they were apparently family parties. The flocks seemed to be in process of reforming after the breeding season.

The majority of observations were made along the ridge from Speedy's Gap to the Box and on to the New Clearing, and down short tracks on either side of this, i.e. from altitudes of about 3,750 to over 4,000 feet. Unless otherwise stated this is the area to which the following notes refer. On the morning of 30 April, 1950 and again on 6 February, 1951 a walk was taken up the path towards the Cottage and on to the summit of Gunung Hijau at 4,750 feet.

71. *Spilornis cheela bassus* (Forst.).

Serpent Eagle.

One was seen in 1950 near Treacher's at about 3,750 feet altitude. It was also heard calling several times in the same area. In 1951 one or both birds of a pair were observed circling over the hill slopes around the New Clearing on several occasions, and one bird was seen in the evening of 4 February in low trees on the edge of the clearing at just over 4,000 feet. This was the only species of hawk observed on these visits.

171. *Ducula badia badia* (Raffles). Mountain Imperial Pigeon.

The so-called booming, or low *oo(m)* calls, of this species were heard in 1951, notably on 5 February on the path to the Cottage. The booming may be correlated with the breeding season which apparently ends early in the year, and this might account for my not hearing it in April. I have heard it, however, quite frequently in August on Fraser's Hill.

173. *Macropygia ruficeps malayana* Chas. & Kloss.

Little Cuckoo-Dove.

5 observed.

183b. *Cuculus sparverioides hocki* (Wardl. Rams.).

Large Hawk-Cuckoo.

On 4 February, 1951, I heard distinctly the calls of a cuckoo that is quite common on Fraser's Hill, at least from August through the winter months. I have discussed its identity, *in litt.*, with Mr. Gibson-Hill (1949: 90), and concluded that it is probably the above species. The calls were also heard once, rather indistinctly but I think with reasonable certainty, in April 1950.

218. *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei* (Burton).

Pygmy Owlet.

I have been told by a competent observer that a call, *toop tootloop toop*, which is very familiar at hill stations, where it may be heard at any time of the day, is uttered by members of this species. Deignan (1945: 178) confirms this statement. I noted the call in most of the localities that I visited, on at least 5-10 occasions, but I was not able to verify the identification.

232. *Collocalia* sp. (probably *innominata* Hume).

(Hume's) Swiftlet.

A *Collocalia* species was present in varying numbers during the whole period of my 1951 visit. It seemed to be most numerous around the Box and the New Clearing where small or large flocks, sometimes of up to 100 or more birds, could be seen at almost any time of the day circling quite low above the gardens and cleared area. I was not able to discover just how the fluctuations in numbers was correlated with the weather, as I presume it must have been. Even when the hill tops were shrouded in the mist of low clouds, a few of these birds could usually be observed flying round.

The birds often repeated a fast, hard or clicking *tick*, . . . . The intensity of the call seemed to be roughly in proportion to the number of birds present. When a large flock was about, the air was filled with these ticking sounds, and one sensed an undercurrent of excitement. Very occasionally a faint, but hard-sounding, *tyier-r-r* was heard.

From the evidence of Chasen (1939: 115 et seq.) and Gibson-Hill (1949: 109) *C. innominata* would appear to be the species most likely to be met with in the mountains, and the general description agreed with that species, viz. a bird of rather sooty or smoky brown plumage, slightly paler on the under parts, certainly under the wings, and with a noticeably forked tail, as much as a half inch deep in many individuals. The birds looked a little more robust than the Grey-rumped

Swiftlets that one sees about certain buildings in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. In the field the pale rump seemed to be about as conspicuous as in that species and appeared distinctly whitish.

235. *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila* Oberh.

Whitebellied Swiftlet.

One or two were seen at the Tea Gardens at a little over 2,000 feet. In 1950 a few less definitely identified *Collocalia* near Maxwell Bungalow at about 3,250 feet, and elsewhere, were probably this species. I have no note of it in 1951. I have certainly recorded it here on past visits.

I have the impression that this species is not as common on these hills as it used to be. Perhaps this scarcity only refers to the early months of the year, during which period it seems to be quite numerous and apparently breeding in the comparatively near lowlands around Ipoh. This may indicate a seasonal change of habitat. It would be interesting to compare its present status on Fraser's Hill, where it used to be common in January and August 1947 and 1948.

237. *Hirundapus gigantea* (Temm.) subsp. Spinetail Swift.

A Spinetail Swift was seen circling near the Box at 11 a.m. on 29 April, 1950. In 1951 this species was seen almost daily circling over the ridge and hill summits, including two birds at noon on 7 February at the Box and one flying round the top of Gunung Hijau at 1 p.m. on 6 February.

240. *Apus affinis subfasciatus* (Blyth). House-Swift.

Very common near all the bungalows; I estimate 500 seen; probably breeding here, as it certainly does at the hill stations in the main range.

242. *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti* Stres. Crested Tree-Swift.

At least one pair observed about a large tree near the Box. Judging by the excited calls and circling flights, I imagine the birds were breeding there.

271. *Anorrhinus galeritus carinatus* (Blyth). Bushycrested Hornbill.

Quite common; probably about 30 seen or heard. In 1951 I met a party of about 10 birds on the path to the Cottage on 5 and 6 February, and another of about 5 birds on the slopes of G. Hijau at 4,300 feet. Other groups were glimpsed or heard

near the Box and down the valleys below the ridge. In 1950 the birds were not seen, but heard further down the valleys north of Speedy's Gap at altitudes considered to be between about 3,000 and 3,500 feet; their numbers could not be estimated, but judging from the calls, they were just as common.

This is a talkative, indeed noisy, species, rather like the Pied Hornbills in its flocking habits and high-pitched, cackling calls. The latter suggest the presence of immature birds, and undoubtedly some sub-adults were present, but whether these calls are indeed uttered by immature birds, or are a general call of the species, I cannot say. Some of the flocks are rather big to be simple family parties, but may be an association of two or more families.

The calls may be analysed as follows. The commonest, or certainly the most insistent and penetrating, is a querulous, high-pitched *kueer*, . . . . ., well described by Butler (Robinson, 1928: 56) as a curious shrill cry, kept up at intervals, reminiscent of the chorus raised by a litter of hungry puppies. There is also a more hen-like cackle *kr, kr*, . . . . The commoner type of Hornbill call is represented by a fast, fairly high *k(r)ok*, . . . (much like the sound in *croakery* but the *r* almost silent). Finally I noted a soft whistle *wh(y)oo*, or a more extended *whyookoo*, . . . . . very like the Pinknecked Green Pigeon's song.

273. *Accros undulatus undulatus* (Shaw). Wreathed Hornbill.

One bird was seen on the morning of 5 February, 1951, on the path to the Cottage a little above 4,000 feet, flying through the same group of trees where the Bushycrested birds were. I cannot say whether the association was more than accidental.

278. *Buceros rhinoceros rhinoceros* (Linn.).

Rhinoceros Hornbill.

A Rhinoceros Hornbill was seen at about 2,500 feet, a little above the Tea Gardens, on 30 April, 1950. Besides the high-pitched calls of the Bushycrested Hornbills (*see* No. 271) heard down the valleys, there were on several occasions the deeper croaks more characteristic of this quite common species, which was almost certainly present there.

281. *Psilopogon pyrolophus* (S. Müll.). Fire-tufted Barbet.

This species was seen two or three times in February 1951, but not in April 1950. It is usually common and obtrusive at Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands.



287. *Megalaima oorti oorti* (S. Müll.). Müller's Barbet.

Quite common, as at other hill stations; 10 or more seen or heard in April 1950, including one or two well up the slopes of Ganong Hijau. The behaviour of two birds seen in a large tree below Hugh Low's suggested the presence of a nest. In February 1951 the valleys rang with its *poopoopryon* calls, and it would appear to be much commoner than the 1950 numbers indicate. The greater vociferousness is probably linked with the breeding season.

291. *Calorhamphus fuliginosus hayii* (J. E. Gray).

Brown Barbet.

I had good views of two or three birds seen on the mornings of 6 and 7 February, 1951, in an almost bare tree just below the crest of Speedy's Gap. This record confirms a less certain one for the evening of 29 April, 1950, when I heard the characteristic, thin *s(y)ie*, . . . calls of this species, and glimpsed a bird, too far off for positive identification, in a jungle glade on the north slope below the Nest at about 3,700 feet.

294. *Sasia abnormis abnormis* (Temm.). Rufous Piculet.

On the morning of 6 February, 1951, I watched a Rufous Piculet at close range for some time just inside the jungle by the path to the Cottage at about 4,200 feet. It perched mainly on the taller ginger stems, at which I saw it pecking. It appeared to be associated, perhaps loosely, with a fairly large mixed bird flock. The presence of woodpeckers in such associations is not unusual (see No. 301 below).

301. *Picus chlorolophus rodgeri* (Hart. & Butler).

Lesser Yellownaped Woodpecker.

This species was seen and identified clearly in 1951; its calls had been heard in April 1950. The 1951 bird was seen by the path to the Cottage at about 4,200 feet at noon on 5 February. It was surrounded at the time by a fairly large mixed bird flock. It is by no means unusual to find this species in such a mixed association, as I have observed on Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands (see also No. 294 above).

325. *Pitta caerulea caerulea* (Raffl.). Giant Pitta.

Calls, *chowquoick*, were heard several times during the evening of 29 April in the valley on the north side of Hugh Low's, at a little below 3,750 feet. These were the calls that I heard uttered by birds, identified with reasonable certainty as Giant Pittas, on Fraser's Hill in August 1948. Similar calls

heard on 6 February, 1951, morning by the path to the Cottage at about 4,300 feet, were recorded as *kukurait*; it is just possible that this was a different species.

331. *Delichon urbica dasypus* Bp. Japanese House-Martin.

At least two birds were seen circling round the summit of Gunong Hijau for about 5 or 10 minutes after my arrival at 11.30 a.m. on 30 April. The white rumps were conspicuous and the identification was unquestionable.

332. *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* Scop. Eastern Swallow.

5 resting on wires at the Nest at noon on 29 April. Also two birds with very long outer tail feathers seen flying approximately north-west past the summit of Gunong Hijau at 11.45 a.m. on 30 April.

333. *Hirundo tahitica abbotti* (Oberh.). Resident Swallow.

Very common (I estimated at least 100) near all bungalows; breeding. There were also at least one or two pairs at the Tea Gardens, altitude about 2,100 feet.

334. *Hirundo daurica badia* (Cass.). Cliff-Swallow.

5 circling with Resident Swallows and the swifts near Maxwell Bungalow, altitude about 3,250 feet, at 12.30 p.m. on 28 April, 1950. A similar number were seen flying about the ridge near the Nest on the morning of 7 February, 1951.

335. *Coracina novae-hollandiae larutensis* (Sharpe). Whitevented Cuckoo-Shrike.

I heard what sounded like the *shri-ick* of this species, uttered very briefly, at about 11.30 a.m. on 29 April near Hugh Low's, and again on 30 April, not far from the top of Gunong Hijau. I believe I heard it once or twice also in February 1951, but even more doubtfully. This was the only evidence of this usually obtrusive species, which I had found quite common on previous visits.

343. *Pericrocotus solaris montanus* Salvad. Mountain Minivet.

I did *not* observe this species, which is usually conspicuous at other hill stations.

348. *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis* (Blyth). Bronzed Drongo.

Not observed in 1950 or 1951. This bird is so commonly met with at even higher altitudes on the other hill stations that I consider its absence on Maxwell's Hill worthy of note.



349. *Dissemurus remifer peracensis* (Baker).

Lesser Racquettailed Drongo.

5 or more in different localities, including one not far from the top of Gunong Hijau with incomplete racquets. Usually noted in association with flocks of mixed species, for which it seems to act as sentinel.

354. *Oriolus cruentus malayanus* Rob. & Kloss.

Black-and-Crimson Oriole.

One doubtfully heard.<sup>3</sup>

363. *Melanochlora sultanea flavocristata* (Lafr.).

Sultan-Tit.

A few birds, 5 or less, were seen in the tops of trees down the hillside north of Hugh Low's, a little below 3,750 feet, on the evening of 29 April.

381. *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos wrayi* Sharpe.

Large Scimitar-Babbler.

The bubbling or hooting calls of Scimitar-Babblers were heard quite a number of times in various places in 1950 but specific identification was not certain at the time. A Scimitar-Babbler was seen at noon on 6 February, 1951 not far from the top of Gunong Hijau above 4,500 feet: it proved to be this species. It uttered a soft cackle *k-r-r-kuk-uk* . . . .; a similar warning note had been heard on the path to the Cottage at about 4,000 feet on the mornings of 5 and 6 February but no bird was seen. The hooting calls heard in 1950 were apparently identical with the typical calls that I have noted for this species at Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands.

It is just possible, however, that some of the calls may have been uttered by the Chestnutbacked species, *P. montanus occidentalis* (Rob. & Kloss), which I found breeding near the Cottage in June 1938 (Bromley, 1941: 141), though I have no recollection of the calls of the latter species.

385. *Turdinus brevicaudatus leucostictus* (Sharpe).

Streaked Wren Babbler.

5 or more along the path to the Cottage.

<sup>3</sup> Madoc, this journal, says that he only saw this bird twice during a visit to Fraser's Hill of nearly three weeks in March, 1951. Most observers record it as not uncommon there. Possibly it withdraws into the more thickly wooded areas during the breeding season.

387. *Pnoepyga pusilla harterti* Rob. & Kloss.

Pygmy Wren Babbler.

10 from Speedy's Gap to the slopes of Gunung Hijau. Not seen, but the unmistakable calls, *piee(p)/piee*, heard often. Smythies (1949: 639) has an excellent note on this; his record agrees very closely with my own experience.

390a. *Stachyris nigriceps davisoni* Sharpe.

Greythroated Tree Babbler.

20 at least, in family parties, sometimes attached to mixed bird associations: a number of immature birds were seen attended by adults. I do not remember seeing this species in 1951.

397. *Stachyris chrysaea chrysops* Richm.

Goldenheaded Babbler.

Common (50 or more), including birds seen on the slopes of Gunung Hijau, almost to the top. Practically always found in mixed bird associations; as far as I could judge a proportion of the birds were immature. After *Alcippe nipalensis peracensis* Sharpe this species formed the commonest component of the bird flocks seen on these visits.

On the morning of 6 February, 1951 a pair of these birds was seen building a nest on the way to the Cottage at about 4,000 feet. The nest was 3 or 4 feet from the ground in a sparse tangle of long bracken-like stems hanging above the side of the path and easily visible from it. Technically one could call it a domed nest, but it was more like a small tunnel closed at one end somewhat in the shape of a horizontal ice-cream cone, the opening facing the path. It was made of broad grass blades or dry bamboo leaves, and had not yet been lined. The lowland Yellow-breasted Til Babbler, *Macronus p. gularis* (Horsf.) builds a similar nest.

399. *Garrulax nigratus major* (Rob. & Kloss).

Chestnutcapped Babbler-Thrush.

10, some observed on the path to and beyond the Cottage.

400. *Garrulax erythrocephalus peninsule* (Sharpe).

Redheaded Laughing Thrush.

The only evidence of this species was the hearing of a soft *pu-r-r-ew*, which is its warning note, at noon on 5 February, 1951, at about 4,400 feet by the path to the Cottage.

101. *Leiothrix argentea* *tahanensis* (Yen).

Silveryeared Mesia.

In April 1950 only one small group, about 5 birds, noted. Not nearly as obvious as usual at hill stations; perhaps breeding. In February 1951 commoner, perhaps 30 altogether; one flock of about 10 birds on the way to the Cottage.

103. *Pteruthius erythropterus aralatus* (Tick.).

Blackcrowne'd Shrike-Babbler.

At least one bird was seen at noon on 5 February, 1951, at about 4,250 feet in tree tops by the path to the Cottage in a large mixed bird flock. Judging by the way it was calling I presume that more than one were present.

105. *Alcippe castaneiceps soror* (Sharpe).

Chestnutheaded Nun Thrush.

I did *not* observe this species: I found it not uncommon on Fraser's Hill in August 1941, but I have not seen it on any other occasion.

106. *Alcippe nipalensis peracensis* Sharpe.

Mountain Nun Thrush.

Quite the commonest hill species; probably 500 observed, including many immature birds: seen nearly to the top of Gunung Hijau and in almost every area visited.

109. *Siva cyanoptera sordidior* Sharpe.

Bluewinged Siva.

30, fairly common along the path from Speedy's Gap to the Cottage and almost to the top of Gunung Hijau: it was not observed in other areas, possibly because they were too low for it.

112. *Heterophasia picaoides wrayi* (O.-Grant).

Longtailed Sibia.

*Not* observed in 1950; yet this is almost the commonest species on some other hill stations, certainly at Fraser's Hill.

119. *Chloropsis hardwickii malayana* Rob. & Kloss.

Orangebellied Leaf-Bird.

Noted several times in 1950, more or less in the same area near Speedy's Gap; possibly the same bird each time. 5-10 noted in 1951 near Box and along the path to the Cottage, including a group of 4 or 5 birds, probably a family party, at about 4,200 feet.

This species is one of the most accomplished mimics in Malaya. A bird at the Box gave almost perfect imitations of Ashy and Mountain Streaked Bulbuls, the Crested Tree-Swift and Resident Swallow; those on the way to the Cottage mimicked Little and Streaked Spider-Hunters, the Bluewinged Siva and, apparently, the Green Magpie, *Kitta chinensis robinsoni* (O.-Grant), No. 356: all but the last were birds actually observed in either vicinity. On this evidence it seems not unlikely that the exception also occurs here.<sup>4</sup>

423. *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps* (Temm.).

Blackheaded Bulbul.

I saw one bird, at just over 3,750 feet, which I felt sure was of this species: I could see no sign of a crest, for which I looked carefully. The iris appeared to be white, as its "pale china-blue" colour usually does in the field. The bird was seen on the edge of the cleared area about Hugh Low's, in the same small tree as a pair of the very similar, but crested, *Pycnonotus dispar caecilii* Deignan. However, I am not absolutely convinced of the identification and feel that further confirmation is necessary before the occurrence of this species here is taken for granted.

424. *Pycnonotus dispar caecilii* Deignan.

Blackcrested Yellow Bulbul.

Common; 10 pairs or more on the edges of cleared areas or in scrub about the gardens along the ridge.

431. *Pycnonotus goiavier personatus* (Hume).

Yellowvented Bulbul.

One pair in the scrubby area adjacent to the Box in April 1950; 2 or 3 pairs in February 1951.

443. *Microscelis meclellandii peracensis* (Hart. & Butl.).

Mountain Streaked Bulbul.

5 or more; the birds were generally observed in pairs, as is usual with this species.

4. I could add to this list records from other hill stations of more species mimicked; e.g. Longtailed Sibia, Blackbreasted Sunbird (I have seen one of the latter apparently taken in by the imitation and come close up to investigate) Tree-Sparrow (common at Tanah Rata; even their quarrelling notes were mimicked), and whispering chatter just like the tiny thread of song uttered by the Brown Flycatcher and related species. This list is not complete.

# BIRDS SEEN AT MAXWELL'S HILL

145. *Microscelis flavalus cinereus* (Blyth). Ashy Bulbul.

On two occasions, 4 and 7 February, 1951, a pair of birds of this species, very likely the same each time, was seen in the scrub near the Box.

148. *Brachypteryx leucophris wrayi* O.-Grant. Lesser Shortwing.

10 or more, all near the path to the Cottage and on to within a few chains of the summit of Gunong Hijau, at about 4,700 feet.

150. *Copsychus saularis musicus* (Rafll.). Magpie Robin.

I did *not* observe this species here. It is certainly common on Fraser's Hill and at Cameron's Highlands.

153. *Enicurus ruficapillus* (Temm.). Chestnutbacked Forktail.

One bird was seen on 7 February, 1951, not far from the waterfall above the Tea Gardens at about 2,500 feet. The species is not uncommon at the foot of these hills.

173. *Phylloscopus trivirgatus parvirostris* Stres. Green Flycatcher-Warbler.

One or two observed in a mixed bird flock not far from the top of Gunong Hijau on 30 April, 1950.

180. *Orthotomus cucullatus cinereicollis* (Sharpe). Ashynaped Tailor-Bird.

Common; 30 or more, mostly above 3,750 feet, from Speedy's Gap almost to the top of Gunong Hijau. Often loosely associated with mixed bird flocks, amongst which immature birds were seen. Isolated paired birds were in some cases preoccupied with breeding. One bird of a pair seen on the slopes of Gunong Hijau had food in its bill and, with its companion, acted as though a nest were near.

- 181a. *Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis* Temm. Blacknecked Tailor-Bird.

Fairly common; 20, mostly in scrub or the jungle edge near cleared areas. At least two family parties were observed: in one of these, a family of four; the young birds were very confident and "immature" in their behaviour, approaching almost to within a yard of me.

482. *Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis* Moore.

Longtailed Tailor-Bird.

Common; over 20; one or more pairs in the scrub and cleared areas around each of the bungalows or on the more open sections of paths along and below the ridge.

485. *Rhipidura albicollis atrata* Salvad.

Mountain Fantail-Flycatcher.

5; usually individuals attached to mixed bird flocks.

488. *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea* Oberh.

Greyheaded Flycatcher.

One pair seen at about 3,700 feet, by Speedy's Gap on 28 April, and possibly one or two other birds near there on the following two days.

491. *Muscicapa grandis decipiens* (Salvad.).

Niltava.

One family, parents and one very young bird with conspicuous yellowish gape swellings, on the slopes of Gunung Hijau on 30 April, 1950; none in 1951. It is strange that no others of this very common hill species were observed: it has been plentiful here on previous visits.<sup>2</sup>

508. *Muscicapa melanoleuca westermanni* (Sharpe).

Little Pied Flycatcher.

One, in April 1950, apparently loosely associated with a mixed bird flock.

509. *Anthipes solitaris mahyana* (Sharpe).

Whitethroated Flycatcher.

5-10, all noted along the path towards the Cottage and on nearly as far as the top of Gunung Hijau.

515a. *Terpsiphone paradisi affinis* (Blyth).

Resident Paradise Flycatcher.

An example in the female plumage pattern, possibly the same bird, was seen on two occasions on the evening of 29 April in jungle glades on the north slope below Hugh Low's, altitude about 3,700 feet.

518. *Motacilla cinerea melanope* (Pall.).

Grey Wagtail.

A Grey Wagtail was seen on several occasions in the gardens of the Box in February 1951, very likely the same bird each time.

<sup>2</sup> A note by Mador in this journal on birds seen at Fraser's Hill says that although he had found the Niltava not uncommon there on previous occasions he saw none during a visit of nearly three weeks in March 1951.



521. *Anthus hodgsoni inopinatus* (Hart & Steinb.).

Tree-Pipit.

4 or 5 Tree-Pipits, usually two or more birds together, were seen in the grounds of the Box during the whole four days of the February 1951 visit. The identity of a single bird glimpsed near here on 29 April, 1950, which had been in doubt, was thus confirmed.

525. *Lanius tigrinus* (Drap.).

Thickbilled Shrike.

A Thickbilled Shrike was present in the gardens of the Box, and probably the same individual in the adjacent New Clearing, during the period 4-7 February, 1951. It was in the barred immature plumage, as usual in Malaya.

542. *Aethopyga saturata wrayi* Sharpe.

Blackbreasted Sunbird.

Very common: 50 or more, including immature birds, a few of which, just fledged, with conspicuous yellow gape swellings, were more or less static in the shrubs.

Males in full plumage were very scarce in 1950. Only about three were seen and these fairly deep in the jungle, whereas birds in the female plumage pattern were abundant and conspicuous in both scrub and cleared areas. Some of these were undoubtedly immature males; a few were in intermediate states between female and male plumage, usually at a stage a little nearer the former. On several occasions I saw three birds, all in female dress with no indication of male plumage, chasing each other restlessly from branch to branch in trees and shrubs.

It is possible that there is a post-nuptial moult to an eclipse plumage in this bird, such as Chasen (1939: 401) proposes in the case of *Leptocoma jugularis microlaena* (Oberh.) and reservedly in *Anthreptes m. malacensis* (Scop.), *Aethopyga s. siparaja* (Raffl.) and *Aethopyga mystacalis temminckii* (S. Müll.). My visits to hill stations have usually been in January and August, and in these months birds in full male dress are certainly more abundant and they were by no means uncommon in February 1951. Chasen suggests that "birds in 'eclipse' are (possibly) more recessive and less bold in their habits than when in full breeding plumage." If this is so males in eclipse are not likely to indulge in courting chases, and the birds that I saw doing so must have been juveniles reaching maturity. Clearly a great preponderance of immature birds at the time of my visit was inevitable if, as is probable, it was near to or at the peak of

the breeding season. Nevertheless it seems to me that the absolute scarcity of males in full dress requires still further explanation. Tentatively I suggest that the adoption of post-nuptial eclipse plumage is the most reasonable one.

545. *Arachnothera longirostra longirostra* (Lath.).

Little Spider-Hunter.

Common: between 20 and 50; it is not easy to give an estimate of numbers, as birds, very likely the same individual in many cases, could be heard passing through the forest at most times of the day and in most jungle areas up to about the altitude of the Cottage, at about 4,500 feet. (I caught and examined a Little Spider-Hunter in a bedroom of the Cottage in June 1938). One or two birds were heard in song, which suggests that breeding was probably taking place.

547. *Arachnothera robusta robusta* (Müll & Schleg.).

Longbilled Spider-Hunter.

The repeated flight note *chäik-chäik* of a bird, not seen, flying to and fro above the jungle at about 3,800 feet near the path to the Cottage was heard more than once during both the 1950 and 1951 visits. This call and the high-flying habits are typical of the above species, as I have observed at the Semangkok Gap and Fraser's Hill, so I regard the identification as probable.

551. *Arachnothera magna magna* (Hodgs.).

Streaked Spider-Hunter.

Common; 20 or more, mostly in the area above Speedy's Gap, at about 3,750 feet, towards the Cottage and almost to the top of Gunong Hijau.

553. *Dicaeum sanguinolentum dolichorhynchum* Deign.

Firebreasted Flower-pecker.

Very common; at least 50, in all areas, jungle or semi-cleared scrub, right up to the summit of Gunong Hijau, where I saw two birds in the shrubs near the trigonometrical beacon. Some of the birds were immature, apparently recent fledglings.

562b. *Zosterops palpebrosa aureiventer* Hume.

Jungle White-Eye.

Common; probably up to 50; various small flocks noted, usually not more than 5-10 individuals in each. On previous visits to this and other hill stations later in the year I have observed much larger flocks, which probably form as the breeding season terminates.

## BIRDS SEEN AT MAXWELL'S HILL

### 569. *Munia striata subsquamicollis* (Baker).

Sharptailed Munia.

Very common; over 50. Flocks of 5-10 birds, probably family parties, were seen in the cleared areas around most of the bungalows, or in semi-cleared scrub and even along the more open sections of paths where there were clumps of very tall grass, such as on the way to the Cottage at about 4,400 feet. There was definite evidence of breeding. On the evening of 29 April a few birds flew out of a nest, probably used as a roost; this was a little way in the jungle at a fairly open spot well down one of the slopes below the Nest.

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### Summary

Brief notes are given on the birds seen round the hill station at Maxwell's Hill (alt. 3,750 to 4,000 feet), Perak, and on the path from it to the summit of Gunong Hijau (alt. 4,750 feet), during short visits in April 1950 and February 1951. The commonest of the hill birds appeared to be *Alcippe nipalensis peracensis* Sharpe (Checklist No. 406), and after it four species,

*Stachyris chrysaea chrysops* Richm. (No. 397).

*Aethopyga saturata wrayi* Sharpe. (No. 542).

*Dicaeum sanguinolentum dolichorhynchum* Deign. (No. 553).

*Munia striata subsquamicollis* (Baker). (No. 569).

No examples were seen of,

*Pericrocotus solaris montanus* Salvad. (No. 343).

*Dicrurus aeneus malayensis* (Blyth). (No. 348).

*Alcippe castaneiceps soror* (Sharpe). (No. 405).

*Copsychus saularis musicus* (Raffl.). (No. 450). which are usually accounted among the commoner species at or near the two hill stations in the main range.<sup>6</sup> *Oriolus cruentus malayanus* Rob. & Kloss (No. 354) and *Coracina novae-hollandiae larutensis* (Sharpe) (No. 336) were not seen, but each was probably heard on one occasion. *Heterophasia picavides wrayi* (O.-Grant) (No. 412) was only doubtfully remembered.

#### Postscript

Two more visits have since been made to Maxwell's Hill, 25-29 January and end of April, 1952, i.e. more or less coinciding with the seasonal periods of the earlier visits, and my previous observations have been further confirmed. On these occasions I saw several members of the following species only doubtfully recorded, or listed above as not seen or scarce.

235. *Collocalia esculenta*. In April, 5-10 always about on lower slopes of hill station, c. 3,200 feet.

278. *Buceros rhinoceros*. 2 at 3,200 feet and heard on New Clearing ridge slopes.

336. *Coracina novae-hollandiae*. Top and slopes of G. Hijau, Cottage road, Nest and Speedy's probably the same individuals in some cases; usually in pairs.

343. *Pericrocotus solaris*. Cottage road; heard at top of G. Hijau.

348. *Dierurus acneus*. 2 at Nest; always present at c. 3,200 feet.

354. *Oriolus cruentus*. Not seen but definitely heard more than once, c. 3,800 feet.

387. *Pnoepyga pusilla*. Slopes of G. Hijau and 2 definitely seen as low as 2,800 and 2,350 feet.

400. *Garrulax erythrocephalus*. Slopes of G. Hijau, at least 2 places.

403. *Pteruthius erythropterus*. 10; several places on G. Hijau slopes and Cottage road.

<sup>6</sup> Examples of three of these birds (Nos. 343, 405 and 450), together with *Coracina novae-hollandiae larutensis* (Sharpe) and *Heterophasia picavides wrayi* (O.-Grant), were seen or taken by Butler on the Larut Hills in March and April 1898 (*Journ. Straits Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, 32, June 1899: 9-30), but their relative scarcity judged by Bromley's observations is interesting. Wray (in Sharpe, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1887: 424) records *Oriolus cruentus*.

(Gibson-Hill).

BIRDS SEEN AT MAXWELL'S HILL

412. *Heterophasia picaoides*. 10; as for No. 403 but only above 4,200 feet.

431. *Pycnonotus goiavier*. Common all over the cleared area.

488. *Culicicapa ceylonensis*. 5-10. Cottage road up to nearly 4,500 feet; common at 3,200 feet and below: usually in pairs.

508. *Muscicapa melanoleuca*. 5-10. Cottage road and G. Hijau slopes. On 29 January a pair was seen visiting a nest in the brown root mass of a small fern suspended about 25 feet above the ground by stringy runners from a tree by the Cottage road at 4,200 feet: the hen was carrying insects to it.

521. *Anthus hodgsoni*. 10, seen in January at New Clearing, near Hugh Low's, and as low as 3,400 feet near the Gardens Office: heard in April.

542. *Aethopyga saturata*. Males in full plumage did not appear to be unduly scarce in April 1952.

547. *Arachnothera robusta*. Fairly common at 3,200 feet: presence at 3,800 feet, as noted above, probably correct.

No examples of No. 450, *Copsychus saularis*, were seen on any of my visits to the main hill station. One was seen at c. 2,000 feet, Tea Gardens clearing.

The following new species were seen in the area in 1952.

55. *Spizactus nipalensis alboniger* (Blyth). Box and G. Hijau.

200. *Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus* (Blyth). Pair below New Clearing.

239. *Apus pacificus* subsp. 30 circling the Cottage, 20 April.

266. *Nyctiornis unicolor* (Temm.). 5 or more, in jungle near Speedy's, ridge NW of New Clearing, and at 3,200 feet.

279. *Buceros bicornis* Linn. 1 at 3,000 feet, 2 at 4,000 feet New Clearing slopes.

313. *Hemicircus concretus sordidus* (Eyton). Pair, New Clearing NW ridge, 3,700 feet.

315. *Elythipicus r. rubiginosus* (Swains.). 1, jungle near Speedy's.

388. *Macronus g. gularis* (Horsf.). Common throughout cleared area; seen up to 4,000 feet at Box.

420. *Irena puella malayensis* Horsf. & Moore. 1 near Speedy's; fairly common below 3,200 feet.

438. *Criniger ochraceus* subsp. 5, New Clearing NW ridge and near Speedy's; common lower.

477. *Scicereus castaneiceps butleri* (Hart.). 10, Cottage road and G. Hijau slopes.

486. *Rhipidura p. perlata* S. Mull. 1, New Clearing NW ridge, 3,700 feet.

522. *Anthus novaeseelandiae malayensis* Eyton. 3+; Box, Hut and lower.

At about 3,200 feet on the edge of the cleared area scarcely any of the higher mountain types are seen. The following are a few of the more interesting species encountered in this vicinity: 163, *Treron c. curvirostra* (Gmel.) (and almost certainly 1 *Sphenurus s. schmundi* (Rob.), No. 160); 196, *Surniculus lugubris* subsp.; 201, *Rhinorhiza chlorophaca* (Raffles); 202, *Zanclus javanicus pallidus* Rob. & Kloss; 203, *Rhamphococcyx curvirostris erythrognaethus* Ep.; 283, *Megalaima chrysopogon laeta* (Rob. & Kloss); 288, *M. h. henrici* (Temm.); 289, *M. australis duvaucelii* (Less.); (these three species, as well as Nos. 287 and 291, were all seen in one fruiting tree); 305, *Dinopium rafflesii peninsulare* (Hesse); 321, *Scyllophus lunatus rothschildi* Hart. & Butlr.; 324, *Corydon s. sumatranus* (Raff.); 335, *Tephrodornis gularis* subsp.; 338, *Coracina fimbriata* subsp.; 364, *Sitta frontalis saturatior* Hart.; 380, *Pomatorhinus montanus occidentalis* Rob. & Kloss; 489, *Muscicapa thalassina thalassoides* (Cab.); 492, *M. s. sibirica* Gmel.